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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/666,240	09/22/2003	Shinji Asami	243044US3	9518	
22850	7590 07/31/2006		EXAMINER		
	ICCLELLAND	CRAWFORD, GENE O			
,	OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET			PAPER NUMBER	
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			3651		
		DATE MAILED: 07/31/2006			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary 10/666,240			Annlie	cation No.	Applicant(a)				
## Examiner ## Art Unit ## 3851 ## - The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address = Period for Reply ## ASHORTENDE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS. WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. ## Black BIX (8) MONTH'S fore the nating date of this communication. ## ASHORTENDE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS. WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. ## Black BIX (8) MONTH'S fore the this origin date of this communication. ## ASHORTENDE or the passing date of this communication. ## ASHORTENDE or the passing date of this communication. ## ASHORTENDE or the passing date of this communication. ## ASHORTENDE or the passing date of this communication. ## ASHORTENDE or the passing date of this communication. ## ASHORTENDE or the passing date of this communication. ## ASHORTENDE or the passing date of this communication. ## ASHORTENDE or the passing date of this communication. ## ASHORTENDE OR	Office Action Summary				Applicant(s)				
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Art Unit: 3651

DETAILED ACTION

Page 2

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of claims 25, 28, and 30-35 in the reply filed on

4/24/06 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the subject matter of all claims

1-37 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of

claims would necessarily encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims and

that the search and examination of the entire application could be performed without serious

burden. This is not found fully persuasive because a search of at least Invention II would not

encompass a search for the subject matter of the other inventions and the examiner has

demonstrated burden in the restriction requirement. However, the applicant's remarks regarding

the relationships between Inventions VI and IX are persuasive. Claims 25-37 have been fully

examined on the merits.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers

have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

3. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it does not provide a concise

overview of the invention recited by the elected claims. Correction is required. See MPEP

§ 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Application/Control Number: 10/666,240

Art Unit: 3651

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

Page 3

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on

sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 25-28, 32, 36, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Yoshie et al. (US 6,354,059). Yoshie discloses a stack mechanism (30); a first alignment

mechanism (51); a first conveying mechanism (52); a second alignment mechanism (53); a

second conveying mechanism (62); a binding mechanism (50); and a folding mechanism (661).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 29-31 and 33-35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim,

but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the

base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Patrick H. Mackey whose telephone number is (571) 272-6916.

The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Gene Crawford can be reached on (571) 272-6911. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Application/Control Number: 10/666,240

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated

information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Patrick H. Mackey Primary Examiner Page 4

Art Unit 3651

July 5, 2006